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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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**BULGARIAN ARMY MORALE, PROPAGANDA AND STATUS OF CAREER NCO'S**

Introduction

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**A. MORALE FACTORS**

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The men were told on frequent occasions by their commanding and political officers that Bulgarian Army morale was far superior to that in Western armies and in other satellite armies. However the common soldier thought this was not true and that Bulgarian Army morale was generally very low.

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**1. Passes and Leaves**

**a. Passes**

**(1) Conscripts**

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there were three types of approved absences for conscripts in the Bulgarian Army: home (Domashen Otpusk), garrison (Garnizonen Otpusk) and city (Gradski Otpusk). The former was a more or less formal annual leave to which everyone was entitled. The latter two were actually temporary passes awarded those meriting them. A city pass was good only for the immediate town or city of the unit and could be up to 10 hours in length. When a man's wife or relatives came to visit him, he could occasionally be given up to 24 hours of this leave. This rarely happened; however, a garrison pass was given to conscripts for the whole garrison area. It could be from eight to 35 hours in length, depending on the CO and the merits of the individual concerned.

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these passes were usually given only on weekends and only 10 out of 100 men could receive a garrison pass. These lucky few were those who had not been reprimanded during the week. (For a private, such a reprimand could come from a PFC on up to the regimental CO.) When they did receive such a pass, they could leave the caserne usually at 1300 hours on Saturday; they had to be back by 2100 hours that night. A good soldier could theoretically get one eight to 10-hour pass a month, making a total of two passes a year.

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**(2) Officers and Career NCO's**

officers could leave at any time after duty hours and had to be present for duty only during the working day. This held true also for career NCO's.

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## b. Regular Leaves

For leaves and passes, conscripts had to be dressed in the proper uniform and to carry no extra equipment or weapons. Officers, if they desired, could carry their side arms; but they rarely did. Free rail transportation was given all personnel for any type of leave. Ten percent of the conscripts could leave at once, generally after the unit returned from a large training problem. Source did not know the percentage of officers allowed to leave at once, but he thought that this number was also small.

## (1) Officers and Career NCO's

An officer or career NCO received 15 days of ordinary paid leave and 15 days of unpaid leave per year. In both cases these leaves had to be taken in 15-day periods. However, an officer could get more than 15 days of unpaid leave on an emergency basis, the length depending on the circumstances of his case.

## (2) Conscripts

Since 1953, under a change in the leave system, every conscript was entitled to receive 15 days of paid leave per year, which he had to take all at one time. He received free transportation (a railroad ticket) to and from his home. Before 1953 a conscript received 20 days of leave during his entire three years of service.

[redacted] conscript NCO's received absolutely none of the privileges that were accorded to the career men. Conscript NCO's had to mess, sleep, and generally live with privates. 50X1-HUM

## c. Compassionate Leaves

All military personnel, regardless of status, could receive from three to 20 days of compassionate leave, which did not count against their ordinary leave time. Three days were usually given for a death in the family and five days were given for a conscript to go home and get married and return. However, he had to leave the bride at home. More than five days, depending on the circumstances, were given for serious illness in a family, especially during the harvest time, or for a family catastrophe such as loss of domicile through fire, etc.

## d. Complaints About the Leave and Pass System

Although the 1953 leave increase improved morale very considerably, there was much complaining about the pass and leave system. Some men received leave for meritorious service (see next sub-section) through tactics which others of their unit thought were bootlicking. [redacted] the officers' pets got leaves and passes when others had to stay in the caserne". In general, the conscripts were still very dissatisfied, although less so than before 1953. 50X1-HUM

2. Awards for Meritorious Service

[redacted] various awards were given conscripts only as incentives for better conduct and service to the Army. Bestowing of these awards was covered in a Bulgarian manual, Interior Service Manual. [redacted] These awards, running from the smallest to greatest in degree of military prestige, were as follows: 50X1-HUM

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Public commendation before the gathered unit. This was given for excellence in training or fulfilling an assignment.

Cancellation of guardhouse time. Many times a man would be confined on a Monday and told that he would start his term on the following Friday. This was due to crowded conditions in the guardhouse. This punishment could be cancelled for subsequent meritorious service. This would happen only in case of an actual arrest; bonus points against arrests in the future could not be accrued.

A city pass. This award could last from eight to 24 hours, usually the former. It was handed out for excellent service on a given assignment or duty.

A gift award of a book (usually Communist inspired), a razor, a piece of clothing, or another useful item. One of these could be given for excellence in service. Included in this could be a monetary gift of from 100 to 200 leva.

A medal. This could be given for "Excellence in Combat and Political Training". It could also have the above-cited inscription on it.<sup>3</sup>

A letter of commendation could also be sent in three copies to a man's parents, his local DSNM organization and the local City Council. This meant theoretically that a man would have an easier time in finding a job upon his release or that a previous job would be upgraded in pay.

An award of a garrison pass (good for an area surrounding the caserne up to 50 kilometers) was given for excellence of service. This could be of 24, 36 or 48 hours duration.

Home leave of from three to 20 days could also be given for the same reason, but this happened probably once in a thousand cases. It could be given for such feats as an almost perfect score on the range, having an approved political mind, or for uncovering a man considered detrimental to the Bulgarian government. An entire gun crew could (but very rarely did) get such a leave for perfect firing, especially during big maneuvers. A battery CO could give up to three days, a battalion CO up to 10 days and a regimental CO up to 20 days of such a home leave. (A conscript would much rather have this home leave than a promotion )

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Theoretically considered the next higher honor award was the privilege of having a picture taken in front of the unit colors. This was awarded for the greatest degree of excellence of service over a long period or for some really great act of heroism. (However, to the conscripts this meant very little; they would prefer a leave or a monetary award.)

The greatest award of honor by military standards was for an individual to have his name inscribed on a marble monument in the caserne. This would be given to truly great heroes by military standards and to men who continually excelled in service during their entire three year tour of duty. Having a name thus inscribed meant that every future incoming recruit see that individual's name permanently enshrined among the honored few. This would supposedly fire the incoming recruit with emulative zeal to go out and do likewise.

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names inscribed on the monument dated back to the 1920's and covered the former units in the caserne. Officers could also have their names inscribed.

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[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

The average soldier would rather have a garrison pass than a book but money rather than a garrison pass, if he had any choice in the matter. However, this was usually up to the superior bestowing the award. [REDACTED] the first three awards above were handed out fairly often by platoon leaders up through the battalion CO's. The others were given at intervals during the year, usually after big maneuvers, etc. They were handed out by the regimental or brigade CO. 50X1-HUM

### 3. Promotions

#### a. Officers

[REDACTED] every officer in the brigade had to be promoted at least every three years, at least up to the rank of major. The better the officer, the faster he was promoted. [REDACTED] officers promoted twice in a two-year period, although this was not too common. Such an officer had to have a superior recommendation on his political acceptability from his superior officer to get such a waiver. [REDACTED] Then the regimental CO had to recommend the individual officer to the brigade CO, who endorsed the recommendation and forwarded it to the Ministry of National Defense. 50X1-HUM

Usually all recommendations for officer promotions were sent to the higher levels twice a year, and promotions came out on orders in November of the same year. Awards of promotion for outstanding service could come down much faster, although they were never "on the spot" as were many of the conscript promotions. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

[REDACTED] Expulsion from the service called for a major breach of conduct requiring a courts-martial. It was even very difficult for an officer to request a release, as the army was very reluctant to let its men go. 50X1-HUM

[REDACTED] (Theoretically, any demoted officer had to be transferred to another unit, so that EM would not lose their respect for the demoted officer.)

#### b. Career NCO's

Career NCO's were promoted in the same manner as officers, except that there was no time limit for each grade, i.e., it was not necessary that they be promoted before a set time limit expired. [REDACTED] many career NCO's below the rank of master sergeant remained in grade for far more than two or three years. 50X1-HUM

#### c. Conscripts

Conscripts were promoted only for excellent service, and a promotion was more of an award than a routine procedure. On the spot promotion could be given to privates and corporals to the next rank for excellence in range firing, rescuing someone from drowning or from a fire, or another such accomplishment.

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A man could receive two or three promotions in a short period, even going from private to sergeant in that time if his excellence warranted it. However, this system worked also in reverse, and a man could receive demotions in the same manner. [redacted] a man promoted one week and demoted the next; three weeks later he was back to his original rank. [redacted]

[redacted] Battery CO's could recommend a man for promotion up to corporal (efraytor), and the battalion CO could promote him. A battalion CO could recommend a man for promotion to junior sergeant and sergeant, and the regimental CO could promote him to these ranks. This same system worked in reverse [redacted] once a man was recommended to go either up or down the ladder, the promotion or demotion was usually forthcoming. [redacted]

#### 4. Recreational Facilities

Books, chess sets, ping-pong, and the like were available to EM in their spare time in the regimental DSNM club room. A man could also go there and play his musical instrument, or could play soccer outside and participate in gymnastics. However [redacted] free time was so rare that a man did not have to worry about what he was going to do on the coming evening or weekend. There was a portable, outdoor movie which made the rounds of the smaller units in the caserne and showed old or Communist-inspired movies. [redacted]

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#### 5. Status of Dependents

##### a. Quarters

Married officers and career NCO's were assigned to quarters by a brigade special housing section in brigade headquarters. However, there was no government housing; houses were found without too much difficulty in neighboring villages and cities for the individuals concerned by the housing section.

Unmarried officers and career NCO's lived outside the caserne if they found their own quarters. The unit guaranteed them a room in a BOQ if they could not find their own quarters.

Married conscripts could not under any circumstances live outside the caserne. 4.

##### b. Allowances

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[redacted] officers and career NCO's received a small allowance for their wives and children [redacted] officers had to pay their own rent [redacted]

##### c. Medical Facilities

Medical facilities were available to all dependents of officers and career NCO's. If such dependents needed a health rest at a resort, etc., the army paid the transportation and expenses. [redacted] since medicine was completely utilized in Bulgaria, it made no difference if a family went to military or civilian doctors, except for the above health leaves occasionally. Dependents of married conscripts received no military medical care or health leaves.

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## d. Other Facilities

There were no army-operated theaters, schools, laundries, or other facilities available to military families.

6. Crime

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[redacted] crime was a very small factor in the Bulgarian Army. In the caserne there was no stealing among the conscripts to speak of. [redacted]

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[redacted] Troop incidents and brawls among troops were very rare. The relationship between civilians and military was very good; they always greeted each other on the street, etc. However, fraternization [redacted] was 50X1-HUM unheard of, as the soldiers almost never had enough money to enable them to go into town for pleasure.

7. Discipline

## a. Manner of Military Arrest

During meals it was absolutely forbidden to speak or request an item. The only sound heard at that time was that of "2000 knives hitting the mess kits". If the OD heard a voice, he immediately yelled "Mirno" (attention) and 2000 men stood at attention until the culprit was collared and expelled from the mess hall "without his belt". Consequently, all requests for foods on the table were in sign language. No smoking was allowed in the mess hall.

[redacted] one instance where an EM returning from pass went 50X1-HUM to the mess hall alone. It was ritual for the entire regiment to march in in tight formation, singing all the correct songs. When the OD at the mess hall refused him entrance because he had not come in formation, the EM became angry, as did the OD, and a strong argument ensued. The OD pulled out his pistol and rapped the private a couple of times on the head; the man died. He was buried without fanfare, and the officer was quietly transferred without punishment or even a reprimand. 6.

In 1954, during the coldest winter in years, the OD called the men out to march to evening mess. Only about 400 men out of the entire regiment of about 700 appeared, as they preferred to go hungry rather than go into the cold from the semi-warm barracks. Because of this, the OD became irate, called out the entire regiment and kept the 700 men out in the cold for two hours marching them back and forth to the mess hall. The men refused to sing their customary songs, and when they were finally admitted to the mess hall, the OD took away their food for two more hours, all the time giving them "attention, seats, attention, seats, etc". During this time he refused to allow any of the men who had appeared in the first place to leave, even if they wanted to forego their meal rather than sit and take his merciless harassment.

## b. Restriction

[redacted] the guardhouse had about six rooms, which were 50X1-HUM always filled with men, two or three to a room. Most were on common arrest for minor breaches of conduct, but there were also two small concrete cubicles for strict arrest. This was also always filled. As soon as someone was released from this guardhouse, there was always someone to replace him. This brig was for the brigade of about 2000 men.

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Common reasons for arrest in the unit were failure to render salutes, sleeping during political lectures, talking in the mess hall, talking back to officers or enlisted superiors, etc. These breaches of discipline meant two to three days in the brig. Further repetitions of these offenses meant a term of "strict" arrest.

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[redacted] many times officers were punished for non-fulfillment of orders. They received quarters arrest for a couple of days, or a week, during which time they were restricted to their quarters during non-duty hours. [redacted] a senior lieutenant and a captain in the NCO school who hated each other, and the captain arrested the junior officer at every opportunity. The reason given for this was that the lieutenant had no "army sense". [redacted] "the good officers" were the ones who were punished, not the bad ones, as the good ones "had respect for their men and did not like to treat them like prisoners".

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#### 8. General Complaints and Disciplinary Infractions

##### a. Lack of Heat in Winter and Difficulty in Drying Foot Wrappings

Minor evasion of orders was a common occurrence [redacted] 50X1-HUM One example he gave concerned foot wrappings. Since the men received only one pair per month, they wore out fairly fast. Particularly in winter, these wraps became very wet because their shoes allowed much water to enter. They were then forbidden to take the shoes or the wrappings inside the sleeping rooms (they had to be kept out in the corridor). Almost every night, however, the troops took these wrappings inside with them and put them under their sheets while they slept, thus drying them out. Doing this made the whole building take on a rather offensive odor, but they preferred this to having frozen foot wraps in the morning. Often when the OD made his rounds, he noticed the absence of foot wrappings in the boots outside the sleeping quarters, and roused every man out of bed for an all-night GI party. Many other times these wrappings were left in the boots, and upon getting up in the morning and grabbing the frozen wrappings, the men would involuntarily break them into several pieces (the men had three minutes to get dressed and form in ranks outside the building).

Many times they would steal wood and/or coal from the kitchen to burn in the club room stoves, although this was strictly forbidden by the regimental CO. Posting a lookout, the remainder would all gather around the stove and warm themselves, as well as dry out their foot wrappings. [redacted] 50X1-HUM this happened many times with little punishment since the regimental CO "could not afford to have his entire unit in confinement".

##### b. Uniforms and Pay

Initially issued EM uniforms were used and when worn out they were not replaced. The EM were required to wash their own uniforms. Because uniforms were in such terrible condition, passing an inspection was extremely difficult. Pay for the privates (conscripts) was enough to buy only seven cigarettes a month (one lev). These men picked up butts from the officers' mess when assigned to clean it.

The greatest resentment arose because of the difference in pay.<sup>7</sup> Conscripts' lack of money made them very disgruntled.

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## c. Medical Care

During the winter there was much complaining about medical practices. A man had to drop in his tracks before he could receive a careful examination. There was a common remedy given for everything, headaches, leg-aches, stomach-aches, chest pains, etc. If a man could eat in the mess hall, he was considered well enough to stay out of the hospital.

## d. Promotions

[ ] the conscripts neither dodged nor worked for 50X1-HUM promotions. The difference in pay was not enough to compensate for the added responsibilities of higher rank. [ ] 50X1-HUM

## e. Desertions

Generally, desertions were not discussed officially [ ] 50X1-HUM only one official radio program telling how terrible conditions were in the West and how glad the defector (a civilian) was to get back to his Bulgarian homeland. 50X1-HUM

9. Absence of Fraternization Among Officers, Career NCO's, and Conscripts

[ ] fraternization between EM and officers did not exist in the Bulgarian Army. It was said that the Bulgarian Army was a big happy 50X1-HUM family and that everyone got along with everyone else. However, it was also written that fraternization would not take place. An officer was never seen with an EM, but there was fraternization between the officers and the career NCO's. It was up to the officers to prevent any officer-conscript fraternization.

[ ] 50X1-HUM career NCO's generally remained aloof in their everyday treatment of conscripts, mingling only in line of duty.

Officers and career NCO's had the same privileges as far as messing and off-post facilities were concerned. Actually the only differences between them, [ ] were the duties they performed and the pay they received for these duties. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

Rank was well respected [ ] However [ ] 50X1-HUM the conscripts had more respect for their conscript NCO's than for their officers and career NCO's, because the former lived among them and shared their difficult life in the barracks. There were many cases where the conscripts respected, from fear only, the rank and not the man.

## B. PROPAGANDA

In two weeks to a month after conscription into the Bulgarian Army, the conscript's local DSNM organization sent to the unit political officer a record of the conscript's political past. Because of this, no interviews were necessary upon induction. At first each conscript was watched in his 50X1-HUM movements regarding his political conversations and beliefs; this [ ] 50X1-HUM drove everyone to lying in order to prove to the political officers that he was reliable.

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[redacted] 50X1-HUM

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[redacted] a conscript's political reliability had no influence on his military job. A poor Communist [redacted] who was still a good soldier. could receive promotions and better jobs. However, there was a limit [redacted] 50X1-HUM

### 1. Officers' Political Training

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Officers received political training from the regimental political officers and from the Chief of Staff [redacted]

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### 2. Political Training of Career NCO's and Conscripts

Career NCO's and conscripts received (biweekly) political training, two hours each time, on the history of Bulgaria from ancient to present times, the coming of Communism and its benefits to Bulgaria, current Party conventions, congresses, etc., and discussions of CHERVENKOV's current speeches. No other single phase of training [redacted] received greater emphasis.

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### 3. Propaganda Themes

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#### a. Military

[redacted] US and Allied armies were rarely mentioned in propaganda lectures in his unit. The Turkish Army was always made the brunt for comparison to the Bulgarian Army, and it represented the Western armies to them. The EM were told that this army received poor food (meat only once a month) and how much better off the Bulgarian Army was than the Turkish. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

#### b. Civilian

[redacted] most Bulgarians (at least the workers) had no radios and could not listen to Western broadcasts. [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] 50X1-HUM  
programs those who had radios did listen to.

Communist propaganda on the radio, in newspapers and at meetings concentrated on telling the people how good conditions were in Bulgaria, emphasizing the future with the coming of good wages and low prices, new machinery, and better facilities of production. Agitators and propagandists were sent throughout the shops, fields, and villages telling the people these things. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] most were fed up with the whole regime and the picture of hopelessness that was Bulgaria.

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4. Political Affiliations and Subjective Loyalties of Military Personnel

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a. Loyalties

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[redacted] all the high command in the Bulgarian Army were dyed-in-the-wool Communists. However [redacted] most of the junior officers and conscripts were not necessarily convinced. [redacted] in case of an internal conflict, the Army could be counted on to fight its countrymen, at least in the beginning. If the conflict continued for a long duration, [redacted] more and more of the younger men would be more likely to aid any resistance than to aid the Army's cause. [redacted]

b. Political Affiliations

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[redacted] all but six or seven officers were at least DSNM members, and [redacted] about 25 in the entire regiment (including career NCO's) who were Party members. [redacted] the remainder had to have some political affiliations in order to secure their future in the Army. [redacted]

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About three or four of the regimental career NCO's [redacted]

[redacted] A very few [redacted] had no political affiliations. The rest were DSNM members.

[redacted] there were not more than two or three Party members among the conscripts in the regiment. The remainder were all automatically enrolled in the DSNM organization if they had not been members in civilian life.

C. ADDITIONAL DATA ON CAREER NCO

1. Definition<sup>8.</sup>

Sergeants in draft status could elect to become career men, and if a conscript was a junior sergeant or higher, he could easily become a career NCO of his grade, provided that his application for career status was approved. Corporals could also become career NCO's, but they had to be considered as above average in capability and political reliability and had to have sterling recommendations from the CO's. On occasion, when a corporal switched over he received a spot promotion to junior sergeant or sergeant (which was the lowest career NCO rank). Sometimes this promotion came only a month later. [redacted]

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2. Methods of Selection

When a conscript submitted an application to become a career soldier, an immediate thorough investigation of his character was made through his village or city council; this especially concerned his loyalty to the regime. His work record in the service was also investigated. The decision on his application was made by a headquarters higher than his own unit. A conscript

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had to apply to the regimental CO from two to six months before his normal release in order to make the change. If his application was approved, orders to this effect came from army headquarters.

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almost every conscript NCO was asked if he wanted to become a career NCO upon his release. the authorities had difficulty filling all the vacancies with qualified applicants.

### 3. Positions Calling for Career NCO's

positions calling for a career NCO in his unit (51st Artillery-Howitzer Regiment) included the first sergeant, assistant platoon leader, supply sergeant, food supply sergeant, first cook, chief mechanic, optical instrument man, chief baker, chief personnel man, medical feldsher, musician, armorer and warehouse chief.

all the musicians in the regimental band were career men. In his regiment, almost all the jobs where much training was involved were filled by career men.

### 4. Incentives for Career NCO's

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#### a. Quarters

Career NCO's received the same quarters privileges as officers. Conscript sergeants, including those who were married, were accorded no special privileges in this respect.

#### b. Clothing

When a man became a career NCO, he turned in all his old conscript clothing issue and received an officer's clothing issue. Career NCO's wore rank insignia just as conscripts wore them.

#### c. Pay

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Pay depended more on a man's duty than on his rank. career NCO rank pays per month were as follows: junior sergeant, 14 leva; sergeant, 16 leva; senior sergeant, 24 leva; master sergeant, unknown. For duty pay, however, these men received from 400 to 550 leva. Conscript NCO's received the same rank pay. if a conscript NCO filled the duty of a first sergeant, he might possibly receive a greatly reduced first sergeant's duty pay, perhaps up to 120 leva; but he was not certain if duty pay was given to any conscript NCO's. after an unknown number of years, career NCO's and officers received longevity pay.

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## d. Leaves and Passes

Career NCO's received the same pass privileges as those given to officers. They could leave the post anytime they were specifically required for duty.

## e. Messing Facilities

Career NCO's could eat where they wanted to and received an unknown food allowance for this. They could eat in the officers' mess or in restaurants, and were not required to eat with the troops.

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## f. Marriage

[ ] a career NCO could marry at any time and received an unidentified allowance for food and quarters.

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## g. Retirement

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[ ] a career NCO (as well as an officer) had to have either 25 or 28 uninterrupted years of service before he was eligible for retirement. [ ] they left the Army on half-pay of their last grade.

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After they reached pension age, they could stay on if they wanted to. [ ] one career sergeant [ ] was still on active duty and was receiving his pension at the same time. [ ] no other privileges they received after release.

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A career NCO could leave the Army on pension before retirement age only for medical reasons. [ ] a conscript could receive this same medical pension.

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5. Discipline Among Career NCO's

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A career NCO, like an officer, could receive both "strict" and "simple" arrest. [ ] "strict" form of arrest, [ ] career NCO's took this form of punishment somewhere other than in the caserne. This was to preclude any loss of authority upon completion of their time. "Simple" arrest consisted merely of restriction to the caserne during non-duty hours.

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Punishments could be given for being late for scheduled formations or other minor and/or major breaches of conduct. Conscripts who broke the same regulations received much harsher punishment.

6. Insignia

The insignia worn by career NCO's were very much like those worn by conscripts except for the following differences. On their garrison caps (conscripts wore overseas caps), career NCO's wore a five-pointed star which was slightly larger than the one found on the caps of conscripts. They wore the same shoulderboards as the conscript NCO's (who were rare in the higher NCO brackets). All career NCO's were supposed to wear length of service insignia on both upper sleeves, although not all of them did. These consisted of inverted chevrons on a black background.

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[ ] one-half centimeter stripe indicated one year of service, a one centimeter stripe three years of service, and a

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stripe about 1½ cm five years of service. Various combinations of these stripes indicated the exact number of years of service. Artillery career NCO's wore yellow or gold chevrons, as did all other line NCO's. Medical NCO's wore white or silver chevrons and medical officers silver shoulderboards.

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if a man was promoted to the next higher grade, he had to start his service-chevron collection over again.

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18 years in service; these were worn by the master sergeant described in section 4,g.

#### 7. Career NCO's and OCS

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no career NCO's went to or expressed a desire to go to OCS. The prerequisites of medium education eliminated most of them, as they were an illiterate group on the whole. one conscript who had come into the army as a recruit, was promoted to corporal and later to sergeant, remained in the service as a career NCO, became a master sergeant, and was given a commission without ever having attended a special officers' course. He was considered far above average as far as his personal discipline and military knowledge was concerned, and in this manner earned himself constant advances in rank.

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#### 8. Discharges for Inefficiency

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1. Comment:

Theoretically, tardiness of one minute from pass meant (according to regulations) three to six months retention in a disciplinary company, after which the offender still had to serve the full original remainder of his normal service time.

existence of one such company in the Sofia area

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If a man were delayed because of a breakdown of a streetcar, or a similar excuse, he had to get a certificate from the conductor stating that the delay was not his fault.

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An EM had to have written permission from his CO or his personal identity card to leave the caserne. During duty hours his ID card was kept in the unit orderly room, so that he had to have permission to leave before he could even pick it up.

regulations regarding passes were strictly enforced but not to the theoretical maximum. Culprits received liberal doses of confinement instead.

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2. [REDACTED]
3. **Comment:** The only medal [REDACTED] which was given in peacetime was that described here. [REDACTED] Only the older, senior officers and the career NCO's had any of these, which they had received during WW II.
4. **Comment:** Lack of feminine companionship was the cause of continual high tension among conscripts. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM [REDACTED] self-abuse was universally practiced, even on guard duty (sic).
5. **Comment:** [REDACTED] any time an officer wanted to 50X1-HUM place a man in arrest (if the man were caught sleeping or talking in the mess hall) he took his belt from him and expelled him from the place of misconduct. Anyone caught without his belt in the caserne area was immediately thrown into arrest; reasons were given later. In this manner, the political officer, or such, would not have to interrupt the meeting in order to take the man personally to the guardhouse, and he could depend on the fact that as soon as the man was found outside, someone (probably another officer, or a ranking sergeant) would take the man to the brig.
6. **Comment:** [REDACTED] should the Bulgarian Army ever get into war on a front, the soldiers would interest themselves more in killing their own officers than the enemy. The officers were loathed, as most were unintelligent bears who merely carried out orders from higher up without any feeling of camaraderie with the men.
7. **Comment:** Conscripts did not get the pay of career men and their food was also inadequate [REDACTED] They were cold in winter as the barracks were not heated, although according to regulations they had to be maintained at a constant temperature. This was because there were many broken windows which allowed snow to enter the building.
8. **Comment:** [REDACTED] Svruksrochnik (career serviceman) was a 50X1-HUM man who remained in the service for a career, i.e., for an indefinite time. This included both officers and NCO's.

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